

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, page 1, line 3, inset –this application is a 371 of PCT/GB04/03242, filed on 7/28/2004, which claims priority of uk 0317839.9 filed on 7/30/2003.--.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 42, 45-48, and 50-58 as amended in supplemental amendment filed on 9/24/2010, are allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record fails to add the agents as claimed in claim 1 in the second tank containing the particular hydrated salts, and would have not been motivated to add antiscaling or antifouling agents into that tank because the salts do not cause scale on the membrane, however, as stated in the declarations of 8/20/10 the additions of these agents avoid corrosion caused by undesirable passage of solutes through the membrane. A second declaration was filed on 9/24/2010 supporting that the salts in the second tank do not cause scale due to their solubility in water. The claims amendment correspond to the proposed amendment discussed on 9/24/2010, and are allowed over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANA M. FORTUNA whose telephone number is (571)272-1141. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on 571-272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ANA M FORTUNA/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797